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Most of the investment into a redeveloped downtown Sandy Springs will come from the private sector. The City, of course, may be a jump-starter with its public investment in the municipal complex, but public funds will always be defined by the available taxes. That means that public investment might be an aid in some minor way, but the new buildings that really comprise a redeveloped downtown will have to be built by private developers.

Redevelopment, of course, depends on the market. There has to be a demand for whatever commercial enterprise fills any new commercial properties. One of the most obvious components of such demand is bodies – people – shoppers. We are already saturated with motor traffic in our downtown. We need improved pedestrian access. We need more housing that is part of, or very near to, our downtown. Of course, office or daytime workers also add demand, but it is going to be very difficult to attract office space when we have thousands of square feet of available office space in our Perimeter area.

The invitation to all residents and property owners is wide open: participate in the process. Help us move toward a downtown which is vibrant, attractive and a real center for our public activities.

Eva Galambos

CONTACT US

City of Sandy Springs Online: sandyspringsga.gov

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600

Community News and Discussion: [facebook.com/COSSGA](https://www.facebook.com/COSSGA)

Breaking News and Traffic Alerts: twitter.com/SandySpringsGA



INDIA AMBASSADOR TO THE US VISITS SANDY SPRINGS

Ambassador Nirupama Rao was the guest speaker at the Kettering Executive Network event held at the UPS World Headquarters in Sandy Springs on March 2. Mayor Eva Galambos welcomed the Ambassador and presented her with a gift from the City.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27, 2012 | Spring Equinox Stargazing

Join the Atlanta Astronomy Club from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Morgan Falls Overlook Park to look at the moon, visible planets and stars during this free community event. You'll have the opportunity to try out a variety of telescopes and talk to amateur knowledgeable astronomers about the night sky. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes.

May 8, 2012 | Downtown Master Plan Public Meeting

The first of a series of Public Information Meetings regarding the development of downtown will be held on May 8, 2012 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hitson Center, 86 Mount Vernon Hwy.

June 1, 2012 | Greater Perimeter Business Expo

Join the Sandy Springs/Perimeter and the Dunwoody Chambers of Commerce for this year's Expo from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Westin Atlanta Perimeter North, 7 Concourse Parkway, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328.

SPRINGS TIMES

YOUR SANDY SPRINGS NEWS SOURCE



THE FIRST STEP TO A NEW DOWNTOWN BEGINS

BY MAYOR EVA GALAMBOS



Residents and businesses in Sandy Springs can look forward to an exciting process to define our downtown area and municipal complex beginning with a series of public meetings on May 8. Our planning process is meant to be an inclusive one, and there will be ample public meetings throughout the planning. In particular, we want to hear from our residents and the property owners whose parcels are located within the downtown area.

The planning firm that we selected to

guide us in the process is Goody Clancy, a nationally-recognized firm with a solid track record of plans that actually were successfully implemented. Some of their products are the downtowns of Chattanooga, Greenville, SC and Charleston.

It is terribly important that we create a vision that also represents reality. We had plans drawn by a professional planner in 1967 for downtown Sandy Springs. The residents were involved, but the property

owners were not really present. The plan has been on the shelves ever since. We had a Livable Communities Initiative plan in 2002. Again, we had some imaginative ideas on paper, but the property owners did not participate. Little has been implemented.

It is really important that this time, the plans that are eventually produced will be realistic and reflect economic realities.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ALTERNATIVE FUEL GRANT

The City of Sandy Springs Police Department has received a grant through the U.S. Department of energy administered by James Madison University to convert vehicles from gasoline to propane autogas.

The grant is part of the Southeast Propane Autogas Development Program. The

police department will convert 40 patrol vehicles to autogas and expects to save thousands of dollars annually on fuel costs. In addition to fuel cost savings, propane autogas vehicles emit 20 percent less carbon monoxide, 40 percent less nitrogen oxide and up to 20 percent less carbon dioxide. Two fueling stations are planned,

contributing to the City's goal of maintaining a two week supply of propane for fleet use during critical gasoline shortages.

Alliance AutoGas, the program partner, is converting the patrol vehicles and supplying the fuel.

RECREATION AND PARKS SUMMER PROGRAMS

With warmer weather here and the school year drawing to a close, now is a perfect time to plan for spring and summer activities. The Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department is offering new classes and a variety of fun activities and sports camp programs throughout the summer.

Summer camp begins June 4 for children ages 3 – 14.

Camp offerings for preschool children include tennis, SporTots, Mini Maestros, Dance and Preschool Gymnastics Camps. Youth, ages 5 and up, can participate in Day Camp, Discover Me, KidzArt, tennis, theatre, Super Sports Day Camp, Soccer Camp, Summer Hangout, Gymnastics, Tumbling and Rhythmic Gymnastics.

For more information on the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department's summer camp offerings and other programs, visit the City's website or call Hammond Park at 770.730.5600.

Summer Camp Registration:
activenet.active.com/sandyspringsga

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY DRILL



In the event of a tornado, do you know what to do? First responders from municipalities around the metro area are ensuring they are prepared, coming together on April 21 in a Tornado Response and Recovery Drill hosted by the Sandy Springs Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The drill exercise is designed to prepare rescue and safety personnel in the event of a real-life disaster.

More than 200 tornados were recorded across the country in March, three times the average. The City uses a layered approach for communicating severe weather involving the threat of a tornado: tornado sirens for those outdoors, indoor notification through weather radios, AM/FM radios or television, and through alerts via telephone or mobile devices utilizing the City's Code Red or Swift 911 alert systems.

ABERNATHY GREENWAY LINEAR PARK

Design and construction activities continue, and the City is working on bidding Phase Four of the project. Phase Four includes lighting, irrigation, hardscape, landscaping, walking trails, restrooms, protective fencing, park benches, bike racks and a plaza. The project is partially funded through a \$800,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant that is administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

5TH ANNUAL GLOBAL IMPORTS SANDY SPRINGS CYCLING CHALLENGE

Always a fun event, this year's Cycling Challenge will be paired with the inaugural Sandy Springs Food and Wine Classic. The culinary event will offer delicious samples from local restaurants. There is no admission fee. Food sampling tickets will be \$1 per ticket.

The day's activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with the 20, 40, 62 mile Northside Hospital Challenge Ride. The fast-paced Criterium races run throughout the day, leading to the finale of the week-long, seven-city cycling challenge. These world-class professional racers are competing for the title of "Speed Week" Champion and thousands of dollars in prize money.

Proceeds from the events benefit the Sandy Springs Police and Fire Departments.

May 6, 2012
sandyspringschallenge.org

